

Minutes of Town Forest Committee meeting May 2, 2013, Story Memorial Hall

Members in attendance: Dennis Lemire, Laura Stillson, Rudy Gross, Cathy Boedtger and Jim Lyall

Public Attendees: Shirley Ouelette

Meeting called to order: 6:35 p.m.

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Dennis asked what the SB said about the Act 250 revisions. SB wants us and Planning to put together the revision.

Reclamation of the Gravel Pit

SB : The town road crew can do the reclamation. They are presently continuing to store culverts, etc. there. The committee discussed whether Act 250 involvement was necessary, and who would put together the permit amendment: SB, WWTF, planning or a consultant.

Dennis moved to recommend to the SB that we reclaim the gravel pit. SB minutes showed that they asked us to get an ACT 250 amendment for the reclamation, so the motion was tabled. Cathy will determine if we need an Act250 amendment for the reclamation.

Bicentennial Trail Update

The current conditions still prohibit doing any GPSing etc. at this time. GPSing will be done as weather permits.

Trail Report

Jim said most of April was spent cleaning up the winter damage on trails - mostly windfall. $\frac{2}{3}$ of the trails were opened and the rest were roped off. Shirley Ouelette asked that we post that the fire danger is high. Jim built a new route through the Ravine on Southern Belle, avoiding the steep drop. Pallets were placed on wet areas on Upper Mile Long Field. The Trail Log box and donation box were installed at the TF

Jim moved that we buy another trail log box from Lemire for installation at Cunningham's kiosk. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Dennis asked for an update on the marketing proposal. Jim said that the proposal was for marketing of the whole area and would involve other stake holders (area businesses etc.) and take about a year. He said that the marketer recommended moving toward a pay-to-play system. Jim has been posting features weekly to keep Ascutney Trails visible on social network sites.

Jim presented a map of a potential "never-ever" beginners network including dirt roads, double tracks and improvements to existing "green" trails.

Trail to Town: Jim surveyed the cow trail across from Leland's and found it to be too steep and involve a wetland. He suggested a route closer to Hotel Rd. with a small retaining wall outside of the guardrail. It may have enough room for a single snow mobile to negotiate. The committee will do a site visit next month.

In May and June he wants to improve some of the easier trails and build more easier trails on the ski area, especially before the VT MTB Fest in July.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted, Jim Lyall, TFC Secretary